# Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

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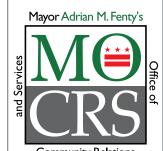
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We encourage you to become involved in our offices efforts. To learn more contact us at 202-442-8150 or visit us at

www.mocrs.gov.



As Mayor of the District of Columbia, it is my mission to represent our community through quality constituent services. My staff in the Office of Community Relations and Services and I are dedicated to working with members of the community to enhance the quality of life for all District residents. I encourage you to contact us with your issues or concerns so that fundamental changes can continue to be made in our neighborhoods. I thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes
Mayor Adrian Fenty

# Schedule a Fix-It In Your Neighborhood

MOCRS is committed to serving you and improving our communities. To request a "Fix-It" in your neighborhood contact your Ward outreach specialists at 202-442-8150.

Schedule a Fix-It in your neighborhood
Operation "Fix It" is Mayor
Adrian Fenty's multi-agency initiative aimed at abating areas where crime, blight and compliance issues require participation from more than one D.C.
Government agency.



- Street and Alley Cleaning
- Auto Removal
- · Rodent Abatement
- · Business Compliance
- · Graffiti Removal
- Building Inspection
- · Overgrowth Removal
- Traffic and Light/ Sign Repair
- Boarding Nuisance Properties
- Illegal Dumping and Trash Pick-up
- Street/Alley/ Sidewalk Repair

# Volume 1, Issue 1 Season 2008

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Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's

Community Relations

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# MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES

# Year In Review Newsletter

**Walkthrough Brings Significant Change** 

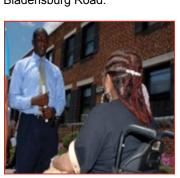
# to Trinidad Community



Mayor Adrian Fenty addressing the group

n Wednesday June 18, 2008, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty led a group of community members on a follow-up walkthrough of the Trinidad community of Ward 5 to observe the government's progress in addressing issues originally identified on a previous walk through in April. The Trinidad community has been identified as one of the District's new Focus Improvement Areas (FIA) due to the tremendous increase in violent crimes over the past several months. Community members have voiced the need for more targeted District Government services in the area. "With regular attention we will not have these issues,' said Former ANCB10 Commissioner Kathy Henderson.

Since the April walkthrough a number of improvements were made to the area. One of the major accomplishments was the complete closure of one of the nuisance car lots. On May 23, 2008, a team of government employees from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) removed more than 100 cars from the lot on Bladensburg Road.



Ward 5 Outreach and Services Specialist Clinton LeSueur

Another improvement was the extensive street repairs by DDOT. The need for these infrastructure upgrades was among the many concerns of the neighbors in that area.

Mayor Fenty was satisfied with the work done thus far but wants to continue to focus efforts on improving these issues. He stated, "The reason we got involved in public



Former ANC Commissioner Kathy Henderson and Fifth District Commander Lamar Green

service is to make a difference for regular people; regular people want to see something done in front of their homes." MOCRS and the other agencies will continue to concentrate on the Trinidad community until significant progress has been made for the quality of life for the residents there.

"The reason we got involved in public service is to make a difference for regular people; regular people want to see something done in front of their homes."

-Mayor Adrian Fenty

#### Columbia Road Fix-It Prompted by Several Shootings



MPD making rounds on the 700 Block of Columbia Road

Several shootings in a vacant lot adjacent to Bruce Monroe Elementary School prompted Mayor Adrian Fenty to commence a week long neighborhood "Fix-It" on the 700 block of Columbia Rd., NW. The Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) worked in collaboration with community members, DPW, the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), MPD, and District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) on a neighborhood Fix-It to address both the criminal activity and quality of life issues on the block. Together they assembled a comprehensive multi-phase plan that focused

on clean up, securing Bruce Monroe Elementary School, and community outreach.

During the week of October 9, 2007, they worked expeditiously to accomplish all aspects of the plan. In the first phase of the Fix-It Bruce Monroe was given added security. DCRA erected new fences around the school, and DPR assisted with providing "No Trespassing" signs to place along the school's playground. Phase 2 of the project involved the assistance of community members and DPW in trash removal, and clearing out bushes and tall weeds from the vacant lot.

Additionally, the Fix-It was instrumental in facilitating better relations between MPD and the residents of the 700 block of Columbia Road. MPD made rounds to various homes, encouraging residents to assist them in keeping Bruce Monroe safe. They are committed to focusing efforts on patrolling and increasing their presence in the area, especially near the school's grounds.



Community members removin trash from the vacant lot.

Mayor Fenty also devoted time to the week-long Fix-It, assessing the areas that needed further improvement and supporting the team as they worked on the massive project. Even though most goals of the project were accomplished, the final phase of outreach will need to be ongoing. The aim is to address juvenile delinquency in the area. A recreational program for youth at Bruce Monroe is in operation; potentially, the access to more activities may deter youth from engaging in violence and crime.



Mayor Fenty thanks one of the

Core Team members

Mayor Adrian Fenty and Councilmember Jim Graham distributing turkeys at the Ledroit Apartments

# Turkey Time

The beginning of the holiday season was kicked off by Mayor Adrian Fenty's district-wide Turkey Basket Give-away. In partnership with several agencies and District Council members, the MOCRS distributed turkey baskets to families in need in all eight wards. The Ward 1

distribution was coordinated with the Office of Latino Affairs (OLA) and occurred on Tuesday, November 19, 2007 Approximately 120 families were present at the Reeves Center on 14th and U Streets to receive their holiday helpings. Another distribution was done at the Ledroit Apart-

ments on V and 4th Streets, NW, with Council member
Jim Graham. The Ward 8
distribution was done with
MPD at the 7th District Police
station and 300 families
were provided with food. The
events were great pictures of
generosity, and the sharing
of the warm holiday spirit.

### **District Under the Influence of Crime Reduction Initiative**

Since November 2007, Mayor Adrian Fenty has coordinated efforts between his community outreach staff, government agencies, and non-governmental outreach volunteers to improve services in areas experiencing high rates of crime. The collaborative entitled Focus Improvement Area Initiative (FIA) aims to develop strategic plans to make conditions safer for members of these communities. The Mayor's goal is to increase public safety by focusing resources on individuals most vulnerable to the lure of criminal activity. Spearheaded by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) the FIA initiative has coordinated the services of agencies such as the Department of Employment Services (DOES), the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), the Department of Public Works (DPW), MOCRS and

others to increase employment opportunities, engage youth, and improve neighborhood appearance in areas of Wards 1, 5, and 8, and most recently Wards 4 and 6.

Our Outreach and Service Specialists have ensured that several services are brought to areas where they are needed the most. Our role involves the coordination of several community clean-ups, conducting various forms of outreach, organizing weekly Fix-Its, and participating in community walkthroughs. Since February of this year Mayor Fenty has led walkthroughs in all of the FIAs, which has allowed D.C. Government to assess problem areas and determine how to effectively combine agency manpower to provide rapid response to help improve quality of life.

"You can tell that no matter

how hard the Chief (Chief Cathy Lanier, MPD) and I work, there is no way we can solve crime in this area without our concerted efforts," said Mayor Fenty as he addressed the crowd of government officials during a Ward 5 FIA walkthrough on Thursday, February 7, 2008.

Additionally, all participating agencies have tailored individual goals to achieve which are measured weekly to determine their successes in impacting the communities that are within a FIA. The help of community members has also added value to the initiative, they have assisted in identifying major issues and offering support to tackling some of the most consistent problem areas.

# maintained. Bulk items such as unwanted furniture and Christmas trees were

eventually removed by DPW.

DPW warned neighbors in these communities of the consequences of their actions; which could result in issued citations.



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Location: 2500 block of Porter Street, NW



Location: 4900 block of Wisconsin Avenue, NW



Location: 4900 block of Wisconsin Avenue. NW

# **MOCRS Combats Illegal Dumping in Ward 3**

Illegal dumping is an issue that impacts quality life and property values of many communities in the District. There has been an increase in the presence of illegal dumping in areas of Ward 3 that are normally well maintained by community members.

During a survey of the ward, MOCRS Outreach and Services Specialist Gilberto Solano identified a few dumping areas in Chevy Chase, Tenleytown, and Cleveland Park. There were several complaints from members of the Cleveland Park community about the dumping on the 2500 block of Porter Street, NW. On April 4th MOCRS inspected the area and DPW proceeded with the clean-up.

In the subsequent week other dumping locations were found in Chevy Chase on the 5400 block of Reno Road, NW and in Tenleytown on the 4900 block of Wisconsin Ave, NW. Public space in the front of a few homes were not adequately

COMMUNITY REPORT

# MOCRS Hosts Weekend Fix-It in Third District Focus Improvement Area (FIA)



Weekend Fix-It cleanup team

"The involvement of the DYRS youth furthered the team's outreach goals, offering an opportunity for the youth to rehabilitate themselves through empowering their community."

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The first of several weekend Fix-Its in Ward 1 was organized by MOCRS on Saturday, March 1, 2008. This Fix-It included members of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and several community members; together they conducted an alley cleaning of the 1400 block of Columbia Road, NW, one of the District's Focus Improvement Areas (FIA).

Trash removal and graffiti abatements were the main activities featured in the day's clean-up efforts. Additionally, the involvement of the DYRS youth furthered their outreach goals, offering an opportunity

for the youth to rehabilitate themselves through empowering their community. The weekend Fix-Its continued in the FIA throughout the spring. MOCRS welcomes your support and contribution to this effort.

To participate in an up-

coming weekend Fix-Its in

the FIA contact your Ward

cialist at 202-442-8150.

Outreach and Services Spe-



Outreach and services specialist Jackie Reyes removes graffiti.



Tyra Watkins (Capitol City Fellow) and Jackie Reyes remove graffiti.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

# Fix-It in Logan Circle Brings Enforcement to Owner of Abandoned Property



Abandoned Logan Circle Property

On October 24 and 26, the MOCRS along with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), MPD, DCRA, and DPW executed a Fix-It for vacant properties on the 1300 block of 14th Street, NW in Logan Circle.

The 14th Street Fix-It was done on four dilapidated buildings, 1314-1318, in response to complaints of drug activity and illegal occupancy. When MOCRS inspected the properties, it was confirmed

that the buildings had become an illegal haven for homeless persons and drug addicts. During the Fix-It squatters were removed from the building and referred to other sources for shelter. With the assistance of Christina Litwa of DMH Homeless Services division, the inhabitants were surveyed, and those in need of mental health services were directed to the appropriate agencies for treatment.

Vermin and trash were found in the properties, and the flooring was damaged. Inspector Charlene Barber of DPW worked with the owner in removing the trash and debris, also citing him for a number of violations.

Since the October Fix-It progress has been made on these properties, buildings 1314 and 1316 are cur-

rently being renovated by the owner. Additionally, 1318 was reported to DCRA's Board of Condemnation to ensure that the owner promptly repaired and stabilized the deteriorated building. The rehabilitation of these buildings will remain a continuous priority in order to enhance the overall appearance of the neighborhood.

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Abandoned Logan Circle Property

# **Significant Upgrades Made to the Benning Terrace Community**

Spring brought on several rehabilitative improvements to the Benning Terrace apartment community. MOCRS and the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) worked jointly to ensure that necessary upgrades were made for the residents of this community. They have

received enhancements to the recreational amenities on the property including an upgraded football field, basketball court, and a new playground. As an increased security measure several doors were repaired; new lighting and cameras were installed. Furthering the expansion on safety is the presence of additional MPD officers patrolling the dwellings. MOCRS will continue to monitor the area to ensure that needed services and improvements will continue for the residents of the Benning Terrace Community.

COMMUNITY REPORT

### **Second Round of Cleaning Near Historic Howard Theatre**



Historic Howard Theatre Before



Historic Howard Theatre After

The struggle to maintain the area surrounding the Howard theatre remains for MOCRS. On April 9, Ward 1 and 2 Outreach and Services Specialists organized another major Fix-It to address issues with crime and illegal dumping. The Fix-It included the participation of several members of the MPD, DCRA, and DPW.

Complaints about persistent dumping in the vicinity of the Howard Theatre forced MOCRS to return after conducting a Fix-It there in December of 2007. Illegal dumping has been an obstacle in the community's improvement efforts and the trash accumulation in several alleys has contributed to blight. During the Fix-It, large amounts of

trash, debris, waste, and drug paraphernalia were found, which were removed by DPW. Trash was also discovered on a nearby property and the owner was directed by DCRA to board the property to prevent further dumping.

Additionally, squatters have broken into nearby properties owned by Radio One, using them for prostitution and other illegal acts. The issue was brought to the attention of a representative of Radio One who accompanied the team on the Fix-It. Immediately he had a fence erected to prevent squatters from trespassing.

MPD's knowledge of the happenings of the area was very instrumental in identifying the locations to target during the Fix-It. They lead the team to several illegal vendors who were immediately shut down and issued fines. A significant amount of manpower and resources was offered for this Fix-It. "I'm so happy with the work that the core teams of Wards 1 & 2 have offered to coordinate such a huge clean-up for the community," said Abigail Petersen Outreach and Services Specialist for Ward 2, "but in order for our work to be successful we will need to work with residents and educate them on how to report these issues once

they are witnessed."

### **Barry Farms Community Walkthrough**



Walkthrough in the Barry Farms/ Hillsdale community

On November 29, 2007, the MOCRS participated in a neighborhood walkthrough in the Barry Farms/ Hillsdale community. Accompanied by representatives from the DCRA, Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), and DPW, MOCRS conducted a thorough needs assessment of the 1200 block of Sumner Road, NE to

determine which areas would need immediate services from the agencies present.

Routine compliance checks of the businesses on the block were conducted and Charlie's Corner, a local convenience store, was inspected. Fortunately the store was not in violation of any of the regulations set forth by ABRA or DCRA and was equipped with valid licenses.

Additionally, the group of government agency representatives discovered two vacant properties and an abandoned lot. Due to the substantial amount of trash in the abandoned lot, DPW scheduled a cleanup for the subsequent weeks.

There were no signs of deterioration or illegal occupancy of the vacant properties, but they were placed on the DCRA's vacant property list. Placement on this list will affect the owner's property tax bill, increasing it yearly at higher rates.



### Spring Cleaning in Rosedale and Stanton Park Communities



Before: Rosedale-Alley behind 1900 block of Gales St NE (Alley in between 19th Street, NE, 20th Street, NE, and behind Gales Street, NE)

Major Fix-Its were coordinated this past spring in the Rosedale and Stanton Park communities of Ward 6. On May 30, the Rosedale Fix-It included a team of DPW staff members who worked to remove signs of blight from the area. DPW cleared an illegal dumping site on the 1900 block of Gales Street, NE and two abandoned vehicles were towed from the rear alley.

Several areas in need of critical D.C. government services were also revealed on the 1400 block of Duncan Street, NE of Stanton Park. In late April MOCRS along with crews from DDOT and DPW conducted a day long Fix-It in the rear alley where substantial amounts of trash and overgrowth was removed. Additionally, DPW abated graffiti from several properties. DDOT's role in the effort included pruning trees that were obstructing telephone lines.

Pleased with the cleanup, residents offered their thumbs-up to the hard working government workers. As these communities continue to flourish, the maintenance and the proper delivery of service remain a priority for the MOCRS.



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After: Rosedale-Alley behind 1900 block of Gales St NE



After: Stanton Park-1400 block of Duncan Street NE

# **MOCRS Leads Residents on an Eckington Walkthrough**

At the request of community members, a walkthrough of the Eckington Community of Ward 5 was successfully organized under the leadership and collaboration of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Denise Wright and MOCRS Ward 5 Outreach and Services Specialist Alice Thompson.

The Walkthrough took place on June 04, 2008, on the 300 block of W Street, NE and continued onto 4th Street and Rhode Island Ave, NE. According to Alice Thompson, "This community has been vocal about the need for change and has taken a giant step towards it by participating in this walkthrough." Several persistent problems were

identified, including alleys in need of repair, illegal dumping, broken street lights, potholes, and much more.

In the subsequent weeks, D.C. government began addressing many of the identified issues. DPW immediately began the clean up of an illegal dumping site in the rear alley of 5th Street. DDOT transportation engineers ordered the installation of new street parking meters as an enforcement tool for managing the ongoing parking issues. They have also initiated the repair of an alley on the 2100 block of 4th Street, NE and a Sidewalk on 3rd and Randolph, NE. Completion of these projects is expected

in the 90 days following the walkthrough. Other issues expected to be addressed by DDOT include the need for speed bumps on several streets in the vicinity and the repair of several traffic lights.

Based on the sentiments of those that participated in the walkthrough, it was a great sign of the blossoming relationship between members of the Eckington Community and D.C. Government.

COMMUNITY REPORT

#### **Working Hands Wipe Out Community Stain**

A vacant lot on the 800 block of Upshur Street, NW was the source of community concern for several years. Trash build-up, prostitution, illegal dumping, and drug activity thrived on the lot. Members of Hands Together, a community group in Ward 4, requested services from several D.C. agencies to have these issues eradicated. The lack of immediate action to abating the lot prompted the group to seek the support of Mayor Adrian Fenty during his tenure as

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Councilmember of Ward 4. As Councilmember, Mayor Fenty advocated for securing the lot for six years, but it was not until he became Mayor that he was able to put enough pressure on government agencies to have this accomplished.

In early February MOCRS and DCRA conducted a Fix-It to clean and renew the lot. They worked on securing the lot, removing bulk trash, and erecting a fence. Community members were pleased

with the outcome, and were relieved to be finally purged of this persistent community nuisance. Currently a proposal to convert the lot into a community garden has been presented, and has been welcomed by residents.



This lot has been a persistent problem area in Ward 4 for over the past 10 years. Photos Taken - 12/10/2007

#### **VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1**

### **MOCRS Sweep the Florida Ave. Market**

On Friday, February 15, 2008, MOCRS Outreach and Services Specialists for Wards 5 and 6 conducted an enforcement sweep of the Florida Avenue Market. DPW, the Department of Health (DOH), and others were also involved in the compliance checks of several of the businesses in the market. During previous visits business owners and workers were observed violating health codes by disposing trash in the most unsanitary manner,

resulting in rodent harborage and an accumulation of trash. Since then, DPW and DCRA have held the business owners more accountable and have pressured them to clean the decaying garbage.

During the enforcement sweep, they discovered a vendor storing food in an abandoned school bus. Upon entry to the bus, the agency representatives were hit by the foul smell of decaying food and rodents. The bus was removed and the owner was cited.

To protect the health of the patrons of the Florida Avenue Market, routine inspections will continue until businesses practice better storage of food and waste.

#### **Jasper Place Fix-It**



Jasper Park Fix-it

Although 1350-1356 Jasper Place, SE have been vacant for years, they have generated several nuisances. The buildings were known for attracting squatters, vandals, and other forms of criminal activity, disturbing the peace, safety, and public health of the residents in the area. MOCRS and other government agencies have worked to improve the buildings' negative impact on the surrounding community. In early January, MOCRS,

along with their Ward 8 core team comprised of various D.C. agencies including, but not limited to, DCRA and DPW, abated and secured each vacant building. The team worked tirelessly in the snow to address the danger and blight the buildings presented.

Due to their efforts, the appearances of the buildings were significantly improved. The intense abatement process involved the removal of nearly one-half ton of trash and bulk items by DPW. DCRA was instrumental in securing the buildings, they installed steel plates on all entry doors and plywood on all interior doors. Additionally, new fences were erected around the buildings to prevent break-ins and vandalism.

The effective collaboration and execution of the agencies added a greater sense of security among members of the community who were impacted by the properties' previous state. ■



Jasper Park Fix-it

"The effective collaboration and execution of the agencies added a greater sense of security among members of the community who were impacted by the properties' previous state."

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### **Celebrating Neighbors Working Together**



On November 13, 2007, Mayor Adrian Fenty addressed a group of community leaders at an event hosted by German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth. The event celebrated the 10-year partnership between the Hillcrest Civic Association of Ward 7 and the Palisades Civic Association of Ward 3.

For the past decade, the partnership named Neighbors Through Art, has worked to

identify and address both the common and divergent issues of the Hillcrest and Palisades neighborhoods. They have observed each others' successes and problems and have learned from them in order to advance their own communities. The partnership aims to bridge the gap between the two communities so that progress and development are done collaboratively and more effectively.





Mayor Fenty congratulated Hillcrest and Palisades on their commitment and expressed his support for their leadership in connecting two distinct and valuable communities in the District of Columbia.

"The partnership aims to bridge the gap between the two communities so that progress and development are done collaboratively and more effectively.

## **MOCRS Coordinates the Cleanup of Illegal Dumping Ground** in Ward 7



Illegal Dumping Ground

An illegal dumping site was cleaned up in Ward 7 thanks to the efforts of the MOCRS. ANC 7D Commissioner Dorothy Douglass, and DCRA.

In early November 7D ANC Commissioner Dorothy Douglass notified MOCRS of a vacant lot on Sheriff Road and Minnesota Avenue,

that was being used as an illegal dumping ground. The lot was filled with trash and other bulk items that were potentially hazardous to the surrounding community.

Upon investigation by MOCRS and DCRA, it was determined that the lot owned by a nearby church, was used by an excavation company as a storage and trash transfer station; the company did not have proper licensing to use the lot in that manner.

Working with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), DCRA, and the Department of Public Works (DPW), the MOCRS pressured the excavation company to take

responsibility for cleaning the lot; OAG was prepared to take legal action against them had they not complied. Within two weeks of the agencies' warnings, the company completely removed all the trash and bulk items from the lot.

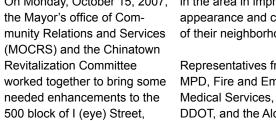


Cleanup of Illegal Dumping

### **Operation "Fix-It" Hits Chinatown**



Clockwise: Hiram Brewton I (Downtown DC), Hiram Brewton II (MOCRS), Alex Chi (Chinatown Revitalization Committee), and Simone Green (MOCRS).



needed enhancements to the 500 block of I (eye) Street, NW, a busy commercial street in Chinatown. Together they organized a neighborhood "Fix-It," to assist residents



Before: An alley next to a building on I (Eye) Street.

On Monday, October 15, 2007, in the area in improving the appearance and conditions of their neighborhood.

> Representatives from DPW, MPD, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, DOH, DDOT, and the Alcohol and Beverage Regulation Ddministration (ABRA) worked on the Chinatown project as part of the Core Team. With the support of these agencies and members of the community, this large group collectively removed a substantial amount of trash and graffiti from a store and two other residential buildings. The team also made efforts to ensure that the businesses on that street were in compliance with the regulations set forth by the agencies present. Members from the Fire Department and ABRA inspected the businesses on



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After: The same alley after the

that block, and issued citations to those without valid business licenses. Citations for violations of multiple fire codes were also issued to Fun Fair Video, a store known for its unauthorized sale of explicit and erotic entertainment.

The Fix-It proved to be a positive step toward community renewal for Chinatown. Community members were satisfied with the assistance. and follow-ups will be made to make sure that improvements remain ongoing.